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LONDON
10.55 a.m.—1.00 a.m.
PLYMOUTH
11.00 p.m.—3.30 a.m.
BIRMINGHAM
11.10 p.m.—1.01 a.m.
Supplied by Auto-
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No. 3162—61st Year
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1942

OVER 3,000,000 CERTIFIED SALE

[Registered at the G.P.O.]
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**THOUSANDS PRAISE
THIS NAME**
MACLEAN BRAND
Stomach Remedy is
a specially and suc-
cessful remedy for
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Helpful even in
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Price 2/3 (inc. Tax).
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Ritchie Strikes At Dawn: Hundreds of Tanks Thrown Against Panzers: Eighth Army's Early Gains

THE HARDEST FIGHTING HIS NEW TERROR FOR ROMMEL

THE third, and probably decisive, phase of the great armoured battle in Libya has opened. General Ritchie's Eighth Army, after launching a carefully prepared attack at dawn on Friday, was reported last night to have reached its first objectives; and was continuing to close in on Rommel's hard-won positions, giving the Afrika Corps Commander the hardest battle of his desert fighting.

PANZERS SURPRISED Our Attacks Massive

FROM B.U.P. WAR CORRESPONDENT

With the Eighth Army, Saturday. A MASSIVE force of British tanks and infantry, advancing directly westwards into the Devil's Cauldron in the darkness of Friday morning, took Rommel's Afrika Korps by surprise and cleaned up the fringe of the Axis bulge before they had time to recover.

But Rommel, a few miles west of Knightsbridge, was the scene of a most bitter struggle and changed hands three times before the British tanks and infantry finally ousted the enemy.

ROMMEL IN A FLAME

The second assault was launched from the north to contain a section of the Axis bulge which had moved northwards in the direction of the Gazala-Tobruk road to divert our tanks.

ROMMEL HIMSELF ARRIVED BY PLANE INSIDE THE CAULDRON AND IS DIRECTING OPERATIONS. WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE PROLONGED.

The Germans may have moved units of the 21st Armoured Division through the gap to help Rommel support the 15th Armoured Division.

I saw the Germans abandon considerable material, including field guns, when we attacked the cauldron, but the heaviest counter-battery is going on from German guns, including 88-millimetre.

The big gun duel is the heaviest of the Libyan war and has been going on for ten days.

13 MORE PRAGUE VICTIMS

Prague Radio announced more executions in Prague yesterday, bringing the total since the attack on Prague to 13.

Libya Prisoners

BERLIN CANCELS "REPRISALS" ORDER

FOLLOWING A British announcement yesterday repudiating German allegations about the treatment of Axis prisoners captured in Libya, Berlin Radio last night said that German measures against British prisoners had been revoked "following receipt of the British note."

"Axis prisoners are treated and will continue to be treated strictly in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention," said the War Office statement which was sent out to the German press.

Further, the reply requested "the German High Command to furnish the necessary proof in support of their allegations."

U.S. PLANS TO BOMB GERMANY

3,000 Planes A Night!

A New York Saturday. At least 400,000 men of the United States Army Air Force will take part in the air offensive against Germany, according to an estimate in the Army and Navy Journal.

"When 3,000 to 5,000 planes wing their way over enemy territory almost every night, then Germany will know the power of her opponents in the West," it said.

More than 120 aeroplanes are needed for this kind of operation. These estimates, it is stated, are based on statements by Lieutenant-General Arnold, Chief of the U.S. Army Air Corps—Reuter.

Germany Gives Lava Warning

Moscow, Saturday.

LAVA has been handed a note from the German Government demanding that effective measures should be taken against the increasing anti-German demonstrations and sabotage in France, according to Tass.

As the French are unable to check these outbreaks in a short time, the German Government "reserves its right to take every measure necessary to stop them," states the Note.

RAF Fought the Desert Sky

To the Free French forces, the holding of Bir Hakeim, in the southern flank of the British, has brought welcome relief.

Armoured cars, infantry and anti-tank guns accompanied our tanks as they swept forward.

As the steel-clad army moved on into the "cauldron" our tanks kept up the pounding of the heavy anti-tank guns.

Every few seconds shells exploded in the air and the desert for 40 miles around echoed to the roar of the battle.

AND IN THE SKY A POWERFUL RAF "UMBRELLA" GAVE EIGHTH ARMY PROTECTION FROM AIR ATTACK. EVERY ATTEMPT BY THE GERMANS TO INTERFERE WITH THE ADVANCE WAS BEATEN OFF BY OUR FIGHTERS.

Both British and Indian fighters yesterday, in the communication from Cairo took part in the battle.

"The initial phase was successful," continued the communiqué, "and the armoured forces continued throughout the day."

Our tanks co-operated with our land forces. Details are not yet available.

Our tanks and armoured cars in the desert sector South Africa troops captured enemy strong points and captured a number of prisoners.

"It is contrary to our methods of warfare."

"But instructions have been issued which will ensure that no such incident is a subordinate commander have issued without authority."

Intense shelling by British tanks was a prelude to the attack. Rommel's panzers in the "Devil's Cauldron" west of Knightsbridge were the force against whom the main weight of the assault was launched.

As our artillery poured on to the Axis lines an almost continuous rain of shells, British tanks, including the 28-ton American-built General Grants, moved up to engage the enemy.

Hundreds of them, reported by the B.U.P. to be rolling towards the front, are now hemming Rommel in on the eastern side of our line.

While one British force is apparently striking at the eastern extremity of the front, the Axis tanks, on either flank, are squeezing inward, in an attempt to wipe him out on our side of our main defensive line.

The fighting has moved westwards from Knightsbridge, indicating a definite German withdrawal during the last three days. It was against the new positions Rommel took up further west that our tanks went into battle.

Rommel's offensive round Bir Hakeim, where the Free French held them back for several days, has been abandoned while Rommel concentrates his forces in the bulge, to fight off the general British attack.

Rommel says REUTER'S IS "GIVING HIS HARDEST BATTLE. ALL FRIDAY THE GERMANS MADE AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH THE BRITISH LINE. BUT THE BRITISH TANKS, THE GRANTS AND FAST-MOVING BRITISH CRUISERS, NEEDED AROUND THE AREA BETWEEN KNIGHTSBRIDGE AND THE GAP WITH THEIR GUNS ROARING.

German artillery, too, fired non-stop, barking furiously at the British tanks swinging into action behind their armoured screen.

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One of the American "General Grant" tanks, new terror for Rommel in Libya, after dealing out hefty execution in Battle of Knightsbridge, takes aboard fresh ammunition.

ARMIES GETTING TO GRIPS Russia Flare-Up "At Any Moment"

An early flare-up on the Russian front, in the area between Leningrad and Moscow, was indicated last night in messages from both German and Russian sources.

The Nazis declared that the weather is perfect everywhere for their summer offensive.

Military quarters in Moscow agreed with them about the weather, and added that the hill was likely to break at any moment.

Both sides are jockeying for position with minor attacks to seize points of tactical advantage.

Berlin admitted that Russian thrusts were made in the Leningrad area, but claimed that after heavy fighting, in which German anti-aircraft guns were used, the Russians were repulsed.

On the Kalinin front, says Moscow, local fighting continued as both sides prepared for major action.

At one point on the front three German battalions attacked, reported by 35 tanks. The enemy was driven back after two hours with the loss of 500 German killed.

According to an unconfirmed radio report the Russian army also broken through the enemy defence lines north of Kharkov.

Activity is increasing at several points on the front, notably in the Murmansk area. In a surprise attack on an important German airfield, Moscow radio reports 24 enemy aircraft were destroyed and many more damaged.

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MANY KILLED AND INJURED IN TERRIFIC LONDON STREET EXPLOSION

Families Buried Blasted Homes

SOME people were killed and many injured by a terrific explosion last night in Gurney-st., near the Elephant and Castle. The cause, early this morning, was still a mystery, although the Press Association stated the explosion was believed to have been in a cellar of occupied premises and that it made a crater nearly 20 feet deep.

Dozens of ambulances rushed through the smoke and dust-filled air to find rescue workers digging frantically with bare hands to extricate people buried in the debris of two houses that were demolished.

Hours after the explosion it was feared that a number of small children were beneath the ruins.

Rescue workers, including Home Guards and Police, warned over the debris in efforts to clear the way to reach people who were buried.

Men were sitting in their shirt-sleeves, women were nursing babies and young couples were standing about gossiping when the explosion occurred.

Bricks, steel girders and lumps of mortar showered down upon them, and a cloud of dust several hundred feet in the air.

PRESTES GIVE COHORT

For a moment everyone thought that an air raid had started.

Within minutes men were on their feet, regardless of their clothing.

They were told a reporter: "There was a terrific explosion like a bomb exploding and great cloud of black smoke and dust covered the district. People were choking with dust."

He added: "I ran to the spot and 200 yards from the Elephant and Castle, saw that houses and streets were blacked out."

"I saw a man carry out a little child about ten. She was motionless in his arms."

People were searching among stacks of bricks and debris for their relatives.

The noise of the explosion was followed by a large part of the explosion, a thick cloud of smoke and dust, a "bleat" for a considerable distance.

"A large area" of about 100 yards was blown away.

"One of one public house said: 'I saw a man carry out a little child about ten. She was motionless in his arms.'"

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